

**Wabasha County
Minnesota Child and Family Service Review**

Program Improvement Plan

I. General Information

County Agency: Wabasha County		Address: 411 Hiawatha Drive E, Wabasha, MN 55981 Telephone Number: 651-565-3351
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To be completed by DHS:	
Date Draft PIP Submitted by County: January 2010	Date PIP Approved: March 12, 2010
Due Dates for Quarterly Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarter 1: June 30, 2010 • Quarter 2: September 30, 2010 • Quarter 3: December 31, 2010 • Quarter 4: March 31, 2011 	Date PIP Progress Reviews Received/Occurred: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • •
PIP Completion Date: March 31, 2011	

II. MnCFSR PIP Recommendations (as indicated in the MnCFSR report)

PIP RECOMMENDATIONS

Key findings from the Minnesota Child and Family Service Review in Wabasha County included:

- The agency demonstrated improved performance in a number of practice areas as a result of implementing Program Improvement Plan strategies following their initial review in 2003.
- Timely screenings, skilled and experienced caseworkers, and positive working relationships with law enforcement supported timely face-to-face contacts with children in response to child maltreatment reports. Practices and systems are in place to support continued strength in this area.
- The agency works collaboratively with community partners and families to avoid unnecessary out-of-home placements, as well as supports timely reunification and management of ongoing risk and safety. The agency uses a variety of innovative strategies that result in children being safely maintained in their home with a strong safety network.

Other strengths and positive findings from the Minnesota Child and Family Service Review in Wabasha County include:

Safety:

- The county has adopted the Minnesota Child Maltreatment Screening Guidelines and this has resulted in improved consistency in, and understanding of, screening practices.
- The county has a higher rate of timely face-to-face contact in substantial endangerment cases than the statewide average.

Permanency:

- New services and programs (FGDM, PPP) have been developed that support timely reunification.
- Placement practices were seen as strengthening and preserving family connections, which supported timely reunification.

Well-being:

- Performance on achieving well-being outcomes improved since the 2003 MnCFSR.
- Workers have frequent face-to-face visits with children and families.

Systemic Factors:

- The agency has improved community relations and responsiveness to the community through enhancement of their Multidisciplinary Child Protection Team.
- The agency has developed a formal case review system (16 cases per year) that includes outside stakeholders to ensure objectivity.

The agency should work to develop improvements in the following areas:

Program Improvement Plan:

- Notify mandated reporters of decisions or outcomes of maltreatment reports consistent with Minn. Stat. 626.556, subd.10(j).
- Convene agency and community stakeholders to improve the understanding of Family Assessment Response.
- Review “Timeliness to Child Contact Reports” on an ongoing basis to ensure the agency’s continued strong practice in this area; improve timely response in Family Assessment cases as needed.
- Develop a process, which includes earlier Concurrent Permanency Planning in all foster care cases to ensure timely permanency for each child; this includes identifying, supporting, and utilizing relatives earlier and more often.
- Implement an adoption training protocol for all caseworkers that will assist in developing their knowledge and skill level.
- Ensure that foster parents’ need for services are assessed, at initial licensing, time of placement and ongoing. Assist with referral or provision of services to enhance skill level and meet the needs of children placed in their home.
- Develop a process that ensures initial mental health screenings are conducted for children receiving child protection case management and foster care services.
- The agency could benefit from development of a training protocol specific to initial and ongoing assessment of foster parent needs. When children experienced frequent moves in the foster care system, it was contributed to a lack of thorough initial and ongoing assessment of the foster parents’ skill level or training for specific children’s needs.
- Staff training specific to the adoption process would contribute to the achievement of permanency goals. This review identified delays in achieving permanency specifically related to the goal of adoption. A contributing factor may be the small number of county adoptions; however, additional training would benefit worker skill levels in this area.

SAFETY			
Goal: Continue consistent screening practices; improve timeliness of Family Assessment cases as needed		Applicable Items and/or Systemic Factors:	
Baseline (Performance at the time of the review): Safety 1: 100% Safety 2: 100%		Demonstration of Goal Completion:	
Action Steps (include persons responsible)		Qtr Due	Date Completed
Social Workers will continue communication with mandated reporters per MS626.556, Subd.10j via the Multidisciplinary Child Protection Team and other formal and informal avenues.		Monthly	
Supervisor and lead child protection social workers will sponsor another educational session regarding Family Assessment Response and its similarities and differences from Traditional Assessment. Screening Guidelines will also be reviewed.		Q4-2010	
At the end of every quarter, Supervisor will print out and distribute to staff "Time Duration for Initiation of Maltreatment Assessments" from SSIS Charting and analysis and then discuss with staff as needed		Quarterly	
Measurement/Monitoring Plan: See above			
Role of the Supervisor: See above			

PERMANENCY			
Goal: Improve Permanency Outcomes for Children and Youth		Applicable Items and/or Systemic Factors: 7, 8, 9 & 10	
Baseline (Performance at the time of the review): Permanency 1: 60% Permanency 2: 80%		Demonstration of Goal Completion:	
Action Steps (include persons responsible)		Qtr Due	Date Completed
Supervisor and Social Workers will make a targeted effort to review each new placement case for relative placement options; even if relative placement is ruled out, Social Workers will ensure that family members are included in case plan and permanency options are explored early on in cases (increased relative visits, more FGDM, etc.)		On-Going	
Supervisor will address all placement cases at monthly staffing with specific attention paid to where the child is at in the permanency process, and to ascertain efforts that have occurred with regard to possible adoption. If need be, the Supervisor will develop a separate Concurrent Planning Update Checklist and require that it be submitted on a monthly basis by social worker.		Monthly	
Measurement/Monitoring Plan: See above			
Role of the Supervisor: See above			

WELL-BEING			
Goal: Improve Child Well-Being Outcomes in the area of mental health screening and foster parent needs		Applicable Items and/or Systemic Factors: 17, 23	
Baseline (Performance at the time of the review): WB1: 87.5% WB2: 100% WB3: 75%		Demonstration of Goal Completion:	
Action Steps (include persons responsible)		Qtr Due	Date Completed
Licensing Social Worker will make a home visit with foster parent during the first 30 days of each new placement to assess foster parent needs and adjustment of child in placement.		On-Going	
Supervisor will, on a monthly basis, print out and distribute "Children's Mental Health Screening Exception Report" to alert workers to children who qualify for the screening but have not yet had it done or had the exemption entered into SSIS.		Monthly	
Measurement/Monitoring Plan: See Above			
Role of the Supervisor: See Above			

SYSTEMIC FACTORS

Goal: Improve staff and provider training in the areas of adoption and foster parent support	Applicable Items and/or Systemic Factors:		
Baseline (Performance at the time of the review):	Demonstration of Goal Completion:		
Action Steps (include persons responsible)	Qtr Due	Date Completed	Quarterly Update <small>(Identify reporting quarter, e.g. Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4)</small>
Supervisor and Licensing Social Worker will meet to develop training protocols for foster parents; the idea of requiring FAK training in the first year of licensure will be re-visited, or an alternative will be identified, such as partnering with other county or private agency training.	Q4-2010		
Social Workers will contact Lorenzo Davis from MARN and Melinda Sherlock from DHS for individualized training in the adoption process.	Q3-2010		
Measurement/Monitoring Plan: See Above			
Role of the Supervisor: See Above			